

BILLY GRAHAM AND BIBLE TRANSLATOR J.B. PHILLIPS

May 30, 1997 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org) -

In his autobiography, Bible paraphraser J.B. Phillips (1906-1982) claimed that Billy Graham spoke highly of his work as early as 1952:

"I think it was in 1952 that I received a visit from Dr. Billy Graham with his charming and intelligent wife. 'I want to thank you, Dr. Phillips,' he began, 'for Letters to Young Churches.' 'Don't you think,' I retorted, 'that you really mean that you want to thank Paul, John, James and Peter? I didn't write the letters you know.' There was a perceptible pause, then he chuckled. 'Why, sure, sure.' And we had a long and most interesting conversation. He admitted to me that he knew very well that he should 'go right back to College,' but the demands on him as an evangelist were so pressing that he never seemed to have the time. More the pity! There is no doubt at all of Dr. Graham's personal charm and sincerity nor of the force of his preaching. But there appeared to me certain large gaps in his knowledge of the world in which the human predicament is set (J.B. Phillips, *The Price of Success*, Wheaton: Harold Shaw Pub., 1984, p. 116).

Portions of Phillips' paraphrased New Testament began appearing in 1947. The entire New Testament was published in 1958 and was called *The New Testament in Modern English*. J.B. Phillips was a heretic, and his translation was a wretched perversion of God's Word. I have many of Phillips' books in my library, and they are filled with heresy.

J.B. PHILLIPS WAS A UNIVERSALIST, BELIEVING THAT ALL MEN ARE CHILDREN OF GOD. "To regard other men as my brothers remains a mere dream, particularly if I do not like them, unless I realize with a kind of salutary humility that WE ALL HAVE THE SAME FATHER" (*When God Was Man*, New York: Abingdon Press, 1955, p. 46). "I would also mean that those who did give themselves in love to others did in fact 'know God', however loudly they might protest their agnosticism" (*Ring of Truth*, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1967, p. 70).

J.B. PHILLIPS DENIED THAT HELL IS A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT. "Jesus surely used it symbolically to mean, not a place of torture, but the place for useless rubbish. The real danger is, not that we might be tortured for endless ages, but that we might be found to be useless and only fit, so to speak, for the celestial rubbish dump" (*When God Was Man*, p. 50).

J.B. PHILLIPS BELIEVED THE NEW BIRTH IS A MERE "CHANGE OF OUTLOOK" (*When God Was Man*, p. 28).

J.B. PHILLIPS BELIEVED THAT DEMONS ARE MERELY THE "STORM CENTER OF THE PERSONALITY" (*When God Was Man*, p. 19).

J.B. PHILLIPS DENIED THE BLOOD ATONEMENT, claiming that Jesus could have accomplished the same work had he died in a gas chamber or an electric chair (Plain Christianity, London: Epworth Press, 1954, p. 82).

J.B. PHILLIPS DID NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS FAULTLESS AND HE DENIED VERBAL INSPIRATION "I should like to make it quite clear that I could not possibly hold the extreme 'fundamentalist' position of so-called 'verbal inspiration'" (Ring of Truth, p. 28). "...I felt bound to abandon the 'God- dictated-every-word- from-cover-to-cover' attitude, and won an attitude which commends itself to my intelligence as well as my faith..." (The Price of Success, Wheaton: Harold Shaw Pub., 1984, p. 150).

J.B. PHILLIPS DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SATAN IS A REAL CREATURE. "If our critics mean that we believe in the permanent existence of Satan, the Devil or the powers of evil, they are wrong, for we do not" (Ring of Truth, p. 51).

J.B. PHILLIPS DENIED AND QUESTIONED MANY OF THE BIBLE'S MIRACLES. "Those who were sent to arrest him 'fell back to the ground'. Previous pious generations attribute this to some supernatural power. I don't believe this for a moment" (Ring of Truth, p. 88). "A 'miracle' is, by definition, something to be wondered at, and in the past, when laws then unknown were being used, it was commonly assumed that divine intervention was the cause of the wonder. ... but I think that it is unlikely" (Ring of Truth, p. 93).

J.B. PHILLIPS CALLED THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST A PARABLE (Ring of Truth, p. 107).

Billy Graham's promotion of heretics is a great, great evil.

[From "Digging in the Walls," O Timothy magazine, Volume 12, Issue 7-8, 1995. O Timothy is a monthly magazine which is available by subscription from Way of Life Literature, 1701 Harns Road, Oak Harbor, Washington 98277. Subscription price for the States is \$20.]